CLAIMS

1. A server (8) having access to at least one set of files (S_i) generated by slicing an encoded multimedia content in at least one set of slicing positions ($\{T_{i,1}, ...,T_{i,K}\}$) forming slices that can be decoded independently one from the other, and by enclosing each slice in a file ($F_{i,j}$) thereby generating at least one set of files, said server comprising:

5 - means for receiving an initial request directed to a multimedia content from a client device,
- means for sending a document to said client device upon reception of said initial request, said document causing said client device to repetitively send a fetching request designating said multimedia content,
- means for selecting at least one file amongst said set(s) of files, upon reception of said
10 fetching requests from said client device, and
- means for downloading the selected file(s) to said client device.

2. A server as claimed in claim 1, wherein said document contains a resource identifier designating said multimedia content and specific to said client device, and causes said client
15 device to repetitively send fetching requests containing said resource identifier, and said server comprises:
- means, activated upon reception of a first fetching request, for selecting a first file to be downloaded amongst said set(s) of files and for keeping a record of said resource identifier together with an indication of the selected file, and
20 - means, activated upon reception of subsequent fetching requests, for checking said record in order to select the next file to be downloaded and for updating said record.

3. A server as claimed in one of claims 1 or 2, wherein said document comprises an instruction for the client device to send a subsequent fetching request before the end of the
25 playback of the file that was downloaded in response to the previous fetching request.

4. A server as claimed in claim 2, comprising means for selecting a file to download based on a jump indication contained in said fetching request.

5. A method for downloading an encoded multimedia content to a client device, said method comprising the steps of:

- encoding a multimedia content,

- slicing said encoded multimedia content in at least one set of slicing positions forming at

5   least one set of slices that can be decoded independently one from the other,

- enclosing each slice in a file thereby generating at least one set of files,

- receiving an initial request from a client device, said initial request being directed to said multimedia content,

- sending a document to said client device upon reception of said initial request, said

10 document causing said client device to repetitively send a fetching request designating said multimedia content,

- selecting at least one file amongst said set(s) of files, upon reception of said fetching requests from said client device, and

- downloading the selected file(s) to said client device.

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6. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said document contains a resource identifier designating said multimedia content and specific to said client device, and causes said client device to repetitively send fetching requests containing said resource identifier, and said method further comprises the steps of:

20 - upon reception of a first fetching request, selecting a first file to be downloaded amongst said set(s) of files and keeping a record of said resource identifier together with an indication of the selected file, and

- upon reception of subsequent fetching requests, checking said record in order to select the next file to be downloaded and updating said record.

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7. A method as claimed in one of claims 5 or 6, said document comprises an instruction for the client device to send a subsequent fetching request before the end of the playback of the file that was downloaded in response to the previous fetching request.

30 8. A method as claimed in claim 6 wherein said step of selecting a file to download takes into account a jump indication contained in the received fetching request.

9. A network system comprising at least:

- a source (1) for acquiring a multimedia content,

- an encoder (5) encoding said multimedia content,

- a slicer (6) for slicing said encoded multimedia content in at least one set of slicing positions forming at least one set of slices that can be decoded independently one from the other, and for enclosing each slice in a file thereby generating at least one set of files,

5   - a distribution network (10),

- an access provider (12) for providing a client device (14) with an access to said distribution network, and

- a server (8) as claimed in claims 1 to 4.

10. A computer program comprising instructions for implementing a method as claimed in claims 5 to 8 when said program is executed by a processor.